



February 13, 2009

Sergio Ojeda-Carcamo  
Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico  
776 Ave Ponce de Leon  
San Juan, PR 00925

Dear Dr. Ojeda-Carcamo:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in February 2009 and included on its agenda the report of the comprehensive evaluation committee. The Board also reviewed the institution's self-study. After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and Procedures, the Board voted:

1. To reaffirm accreditation of Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico for a period of ten years (fall 2018).

2. To approve the following degree programs:

Master of Divinity (MDiv)  
Master of Arts (Religion) (MAR)  
Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

3. That the following strengths be sustained during the next term of accreditation:

a. The vibrant commitment of the denominational stakeholders to an ecumenical ethos of ministerial formation that is reflected in the lives of the students and embraced by the board of directors, faculty, and staff.

b. A very competent and dedicated faculty that is productive and committed to the scholarly task of learning, teaching, and research, and has embraced an institutional commitment to assessment of the achievement of student learning outcomes.

c. The empowering mission of the seminary for quality theological education that is attentive to its Puerto Rican context (to quote from the self-study, "a public image that is relevant and consonant with the social and ecclesiastical realities of Puerto Rican culture"). The impressive collection of archival material in the library that catalogs the history of Protestantism in Puerto Rico exemplifies this sense of mission.

4. That the following areas in need of growth be addressed during the next term of accreditation:

a. While there has been a marked and commendable shift of the seminary to embrace a culture of evidence with respect to assessment of student learning, the seminary should strengthen its efforts by attending to the following:

(1) Extending the assessment strategies underway in the Master of Divinity program to the other two degree programs.

(2) Developing benchmarks as a measure of the seminary's effectiveness in achieving its goals.

(3) Completing the cycle of evaluation (i.e., "closing the loop") by demonstrating that the results of the assessment process inform curricular and instructional strategies for ongoing improvement.

(4) Developing a plan for analysis of data that incorporates data from other educational venues, e.g., the supervised ministry experiences, (i.e., the “colloquies” that are woven into the curricula of the MDiv and MAR programs), alumni, employment, and placement data. (ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2.2; Commission Degree Program Standard A, section A.5; Commission Degree Program Standard E, section E.5; Commission Degree Program Standard F, section F.5; MSCHE Standard 14).

b. While the seminary exercises wise stewardship of its limited financial resources, the seminary should aggressively pursue strategies that are in the planning phases that will establish stable, predictable revenue streams to sustain its educational mission (ATS Commission Standard 9, section 9.2.1; MSCHE Standard 2).

c. The seminary should evaluate its current administrative structure, policies, and procedures, and adequacy of human resources to strengthen financial management and institutional advancement. The evaluation committee recommends that the seminary give consideration to expanding the membership of the board of trustees to include individuals with particular expertise in financial matters (ATS Commission Standard 9, section 9.2.3, section 9.2.4, ATS Commission Standard 8, section 8.3.1.3, MSCHE Standard 2).

5. To take action regarding the following areas of needed improvement:

a. To require a report by November 1, 2010, addressing the implementation of an effective, long-range financial plan to stabilize its fiscal condition, to establish predictable and sustainable revenue streams with particular attention to institutional advancement, and to strengthen financial management (ATS Commission Standard 9.2; MSCHE Standard 2).

b. To require a report by November 1, 2011, that addresses the following:

(1) Extending the assessment strategies underway in the Master of Divinity program to the other two degree programs.

(2) Developing benchmarks as a measure of the seminary’s effectiveness in achieving its goals.

(3) Completing the cycle of evaluation (i.e., “closing the loop”) by demonstrating that the results of the assessment process inform curricular and instructional strategies for ongoing improvement.

(4) Developing a plan for analysis of data that incorporates data from supervised ministry experiences (i.e., the “colloquies” that are woven into the curricula of the MDiv and MAR programs), alumni, employment, and placement data (ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2.2, ATS Commission Degree Standard A, section A.5, Commission Degree Program Standard E, section E.5, Commission Degree Program Standard 5, section F.5; MSCHE Standard 14).

As Secretary to the Board, I would be glad to respond to your inquiries.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah J. McCarthy, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners

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CC: Middle States Commission on Higher Education